

My name is Karen McLean. I am a voter from Hartford. Passing both S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262 (**Continuing Absentee Voting in 2022 due to COVID19**) is extremely important to me because we want to do everything that we can to encourage voter participation, despite the circumstances. As we continue to fight against policies that encourage voter suppression, protecting individual's right to vote helps to maintain the opportunity for everyone to fully participate in what is considered an inherent right of Americans, that being the right to vote. We are learning that we have to navigate around the pandemic, and allowing people to vote using absentee voting is another example of providing some "normalcy" while maintaining safety, during these uncertain times.

I believe voters should be able to vote this year by absentee ballot as COVID19 persists. **Please continue the COVID19 safety measures of 2020 and 2021 for 2022 and allow for everyone who fears exposure to COVID19 to vote by absentee ballot.**

More than 650,000 Connecticut voters voted by absentee ballot in the 2020 CT General Election—which means they voted early on their own schedules. This led to record breaking 80% voter turnout. Listen to the voters, the choice is clear. **Please protect the freedom to vote and pass S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262. Thank you.**

Karen McLean